

A DAY IS COMING | HOPE FOR THE HOLIDAYS | DECEMBER 1, 2019

There's something different about these days. Our life rhythms change and point to a day coming - of celebration and togetherness. However, our waiting and hoping in this season can bring other emotions as well, as the time we're in, just isn't sitting well with us. [From a story] Sometimes we feel like we're the one taking lights off a pre-lit tree.

SOMETHING JUST ISN'T RIGHT

- While many might rejoice at the first glimmer of Christmas lights that you see, or the first note of a Christmas carol, others of us might be in a season of grief, sadness, fear, worry, and beyond.
- We might try to manufacture such excitement in the season - "there are things that are good, that everyone says are good, so they should be good for me too."
- However, waiting and hoping for better days ahead is not a foreign concept throughout scriptures.
 - *ISAIAH 40:31 "But those who trust [or wait] in the LORD will find new strength. They will soar high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint."*
- The OT Prophet Jeremiah faced this same tension. In his writings he proclaimed "For I know the plans I have for you," says the LORD. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope" (Jer. 29:11). Yet, we find him in jail, ready to deliver another message from the Lord.

THE DAY WILL COME

- That message is this: *"The day will come, says the LORD, when I will do for Israel and Judah all the good things I have promised them" (Jer. 33:14).*
- There's a day that is coming that is better than now! Plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. A Hope!
- Our hope gets to be both a NOUN (I have a hope, from the One who give us hope), and also a VERB (we also 'get to be hoping for..."). So... We get to trust

in one who gives us hope and we get to actively be hoping for. Not sitting idle by, waiting and hoping.

- HOPE looks to a destination, a place to be, a day that will come. But HOPING gets to be part of the journey there.
- We get to name our current situation, we get to feel unwell, we get to be sad, and experience fear. However, we don't have to 'camp out' there.
- If we choose to name our 'now' we also get to name the One who walks with us in our 'now.'

HE WILL SET THINGS RIGHT

- "In those days and at that time I will raise up a righteous descendant from King David's line. He will do what is just and right [He will set things right MSG] throughout the land... (Jer. 33:15-16).
- While we are actively hoping for, a Son will come who will actively do what is just and right. Jeremiah is pointing to a babe in a manger, and to Jesus' second coming. We are living among those days!
- Jeremiah was imagining us reading the words in Romans 5 *"Since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us."*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In this season, is there 'something just not right'? What language, or name would you put to it?
2. In light of question 1, what might you be hoping for? What name, or characteristic of Jesus might stand out to you?
3. If you heard (or remember) Lee's story in the sermon, what stood out to you about her situation, and her view of hope?
4. Is there someone around you (family, neighbour, co-worker, etc) who might be longing for 'hope' or something 'to be hoping for'? How might you help in that situation?

Thanks for leaning in, hope it was helpful!

- Mike